DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 459 890 JC 020 088

TITLE	Placement Criteria for Academic Year 2001-2002.
INSTITUTION	Miami-Dade Community Coll., FL. Office of Institutional Research.
PUB DATE	2001-00-00
NOTE	8p.
PUB TYPE	Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Admission (School); College English; *Community Colleges; *Educational Testing; English (Second Language); Evaluation Methods; Language Skills; Language Tests; Mathematics; Reading Tests; *Student Evaluation; *Student Placement; Two Year Colleges; Writing Skills; Writing Tests
IDENTIFIERS	*Florida

ABSTRACT

This report states that since July 1995, the State of Florida has required each public college and university to obtain scores on one of the following test batteries for degree-seeking students prior to registration: Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), American College Testing (ACT), or the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test (CPT). A registration hold is put in place to prevent registration until scores are presented. Students may retest once on each sub-test of the CPT for initial placement prior to enrollment in any course within that subject area. Academic support labs are available to prepare eligible students to re-take the CPT. Students whose native language is not English may be required to take another test to measure their English proficiency before entry-level testing is permitted. Those required to test are: (1) first-time-in-college, degree-seeking students; (2) students who register for any English or mathematics course; (3) students who register beyond 12 cumulative units; (4) dual enrollment students; (5) students who took a placement test more than 2 years ago and whose scores have not been used for placement; and (6) all students who took a placement test more than 2 years ago and whose scores were used but who have not yet passed the courses into which they were placed. (NB)

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June 1, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: **ALL FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF**

FROM: **COLLEGE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: **PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2001-2002**

Since 1985, the State of Florida has required entry-level testing for students seeking Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. Students whose native language is not English may be required to take another test to measure their English proficiency before entry-level testing is permitted. The State also requires institutions offering Postsecondary Vocational Certificate Education to test vocational students entering their programs. This year's Placement Criteria Document is divided into four parts: Placement Criteria for Degree-Seeking Students, Criteria for Degree-Seeking Students with Limited English Proficiency, Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Vocational Credit Certificate Programs, and Procedures for Testing and Placement Criteria for Adult General Education Programs.

I. PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS

Since July 1, 1995, the State of Florida has required each public college and university to obtain scores on one of the following test batteries for degree-seeking students prior to registration: Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), American College Testing (ACT), or the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test. The Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test consists of the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and a paper and pencil version of the CPT. The CPT will be used in this document to designate both forms of this test.

The State sets minimum scores below which college preparatory work is required in reading, writing, and algebra. These minimum scores were first set in January 1985, revised in August 1991, and revised again to be effective July 1, 1996. Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) implemented the new scores on July 1, 1997 after receiving a one-year exemption. M-DCC requires additional testing in mathematics depending on the score received on the algebra section of the CPT. Placement **scores are valid for two years**. A registration hold is in place to prevent student registration until scores are presented. **Further assessment may be conducted in courses**. Students may retest once on each subtest of the CPT for initial placement prior to enrollment in any course within that subject area. Students not eligible for CPT retesting may only be referred for retesting by the department chairperson. Academic support labs are available to prepare eligible students to re-take the CPT.

REQUIRED TO TEST:

1. All first-time-in-college students who designate themselves as degree-seeking. Such students may not register for any credit course at M-DCC until they have scores on file.
2. All students who register for any English or mathematics course.
3. All students who register beyond 12 cumulative credits.
4. All dual enrollment students. High school students whose scores place them in college preparatory courses are not permitted to dual enroll at M-DCC in courses which require skills in the area for which college preparatory work is needed.

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5. All students who took a placement examination more than two years ago and whose scores have not been used for placement decisions.

6. All students who took a placement examination more than two years ago whose scores were used for placement but who have not yet passed the course(s) into which they were placed or higher level course(s) in the same subject area.

EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited institution. Official documentation is required.

2. Students who have earned a grade of "C" or higher in both a college-level English course and a college-level algebra course.

3. Students who have previously attended another college or university and are enrolling for courses to transfer to their primary institution (and who are not seeking a degree at M-DCC) are exempt from basic skills testing unless they enroll in an English or mathematics course.

4. Students who present SAT-I or ACT scores which meet State requirements (see table below). If multiple test results are on record, the highest subtest scores are used. Placement scores are valid for two years. Any score below that needed for exemption will result in testing on the appropriate CPT subtest(s). For students presenting passing mathematics scores in specific score ranges*, the College-Level Mathematics subtest of the CPT will be used to determine placement into advanced mathematics courses.

Tested prior to July 1, 2000				
	ACT		**SAT-I**	
Skill Area	**Subtest Score**		**Subtest Score**	
Reading	Reading	>=16	Verbal	>=420
Writing	English	>=16	Verbal	>=420
Mathematics*	Math	>=16	Math	>=440
Tested on or after July 1, 2000				
	ACT		**SAT-I**	
Skill Area	**Subtest Score**		**Subtest Score**	
Reading	Reading	>=18	Verbal	>=440
Writing	English	>=17	Verbal	>=440
Mathematics*	Math	>=19	Math	>=440

*Placement into MAT 1033 if ACT scores 19-20 (tested on or after July 1, 2000) or ACT scores 16-20 (tested prior to July 1, 2000) or SAT-1 scores 440-499 or refer for CPT College-Level Math subtest. If ACT scores 21 or higher or SAT-1 scores 500 or higher, placement into MAC 1105 or refer to Mathematics Department advisor for placement into other advanced mathematics courses.

5. Students who present a "college ready" high school diploma from a Florida public school are exempt from basic skills testing for two years following award of diploma.

6. Students in specified programs for which the College President may waive assessment within the guidelines provided by State Rule.

Placement Guide: The following placement scores on the CPT are in effect. If scores on one or more of the subtests require college preparatory placement, students must enroll in at least one college preparatory course during their first term. **Students placing into college preparatory course work in one skill area are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1505; two or more skill areas are required to enroll concurrently in SLS 1535.**

2001-2002 COURSE PLACEMENT GUIDE [1]

Reading

(Tested July 1, 1997 - June 30, 2002)

Reading Score	Required Placement
20 - 50	REA 0001[2]
51 - 70	REA 0002
71 - 82	REA 0010
83 - 120	None Required
100 - 120	Honors Option [3]

Writing

(Tested July 1, 1997 - June 30, 2002)

Writing Score	Required Placement
20 - 50	ENC 0002
51 - 70	ENC 0020
71 - 82	ENC 0021
83 - 120	ENC 1101
100 - 120	Honors Option[3]

Mathematics

Placement may be based on a combination of tests. Arithmetic scores are required for students scoring below the noted score on the Algebra subtest and determine placement for those students.

(Tested July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999)

Algebra Score	Arithmetic Score	Required Placement
20 - 71	19 - 29	MAT 0002[4]
	30 - 47	MAT 0002 or MAT 0020[4]
	48 - 120	MAT 0020 or MAT 0024
		Recommended Placement
72 - 80	Not Required	MAT 1033[5]
81 - 120	Not Required	MAC 1105[4], MGF 1106[4] or higher [6]

(Tested July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000)

Algebra Score	Arithmetic Score	Required Placement
20 - 71	19 - 29	MAT 0002[4]
	30 - 64	MAT 0020[4]
	65 - 120	MAT 0024
		Recommended Placement
72 - 80	Not Required	MAT 1033[5]
81 - 120	Not Required	MAC 1105[4], MGF 1106[4] or higher[6]

(Tested on or after July 1, 2000)

Algebra Score	Arithmetic Score	College Level Mathematics Score	Required Placement
20 - 71	20 - 29	Not Required	MAT 0002[4]
	30 - 64	Not Required	MAT 0020[4]
	65 - 120	Not Required	MAT 0024
			Recommended Placement
72 - 89	Not Required	Not Required[7]	MAT 1033[5]
90 - 120	Not Required	20 – 39	MAT 1033[5]
		40 – 62	MAC 1105[4], MGF 1106[4]
		63 - 120	Refer to Math Department

(1) Further assessment may be conducted in courses.
(2) Students scoring at this level must see an advisor prior to registering.
(3) If both scores meet these levels, student is eligible for Honors program. Refer to appropriate office.
(4) New courses replacing MAT 0003, MAT 0012, MAC 1102, & MGF 1113 beginning Fall Term 1999-1.
(5) MAT 1033 satisfies math requirement only for students admitted prior to 1996-1 and continuously enrolled.
(6) See Mathematics Department advisor. College-Level Mathematics subtest available on individual basis.
(7) College-Level Mathematics subtest available upon request.

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II. CRITERIA FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Students without sufficient proficiency in English to take the CPT are required to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and be placed in the designated English as a Second Language for Academic Purposes (EAP) course. A documented score of 550 on the paper and pencil TOEFL or a 213 on the computerized TOEFL taken on or after 7/1/98 exempts a student from EPT testing (Technical Manual 501003). CPT testing is required following EPT testing and/or completion of EAP courses. The following placement scores are currently in use:

EAP Placement Guide	
EPT Raw Score	***Course Placement***
0 – 10	EAP – Level 1*
11 – 30	EAP – Level 1
31 – 44	EAP – Level 2
45 – 58	EAP – Level 3
59 – 72	EAP – Level 4
73 – 86	EAP – Level 5
87 – 95	EAP – Level 6
96 – 100	Exempt from EAP
*Students scoring at this level will be strongly advised to enroll in alternative English language programs. Campus department may adjust initial placement based on a writing sample and/or oral interview. Further testing may be done in classrooms.	

III. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR VOCATIONAL CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The State of Florida requires each institution offering Postsecondary Vocational Certificate Education to administer one of the following approved examinations to assess student mastery of basic skills: Adult Measure of Essential Skills (AMES),1997; Computerized Placement Test (CPT); Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Complete Battery or Survey Form, Forms 7 and 8, 1994; Tests of Adult Basic Education – Work Related (TABE-WR), 1994; or the Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST), 1994.

Depending on the Vocational Credit Certificate program, M-DCC administers the TABE Complete Battery or Survey, Level A, Forms 7 and 8 (Corrections, Fire, Law Enforcement, and Medical Programs currently use the Complete Battery). Retesting is offered only following completion of a prescribed remediation program with a minimum 30-day period after initial testing or between retests. An alternate form of the TABE is used for retests. Academic support labs are available to remediate students to retake the TABE.

Minimum basic skills grade levels in mathematics, language, and reading are defined in each vocational program description adopted under Rule 6A-6.0571, FAC, and published annually by the Commissioner in the document entitled, "Vocational Education Program Course Standards." Program personnel should refer to this document for minimum required basic skills grade levels to earn a certificate by program.

Agencies sponsoring Vocational Credit Certificate seeking students may set higher requirements and exemptions for testing.

Students without sufficient proficiency in English are referred to Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) programs. Refer to Section IV-C.

M-DCC may accept official test scores from certified academic institutions and approved Training and Employment Council Agencies. Parameters for testing will be established between coordinating agencies.

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REQUIRED TO TEST:

1. All first-time-in-program students who designate themselves as certificate-seeking in a vocational program of more than 180 hours. Such students must complete an entry-level examination within the first six weeks of admission into the program.

2. All students whose TABE (or other approved examination) scores are more than two years old and have not been used for placement.

EXEMPTED FROM TESTING:

1. Students who have earned an Associate in Arts degree or higher from an accredited institution are ordinarily exempted from testing except in specific situations such as certain programs sponsored by external funding agencies.

2. Students who present passing SAT-I, ACT, or CPT scores which exempt them from college preparatory placement as outlined in Section I (Placement Criteria for Degree-Seeking Students) are exempt from testing for Vocational Credit Certificate programs. The student must have passing scores in all three subject areas.

3. Students who have completed the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) requirement pursuant to Section 240.107 are exempt from testing for Vocational Credit Certificate programs.

4. Students who present official scores on any of the state-approved exams (including the CPT) which demonstrate the skill level required by the specific program. The scores must have been obtained within the past two years.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR TESTING AND PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR ADULT GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The State of Florida requires each institution offering Adult General Education programs to administer one of the following approved examinations to place adult education students into the appropriate course(s) for their literacy level in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language: Adult Measure of Essential Skills (AMES), 1997; Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Complete Battery or Survey, Forms 7 and 8, 1994; Test of Adult Basic Education – Work Related (TABE–WR), 1994; or the Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST), 1994.

M-DCC administers the TABE Survey Forms 7 and 8 with Locator for this purpose. The TABE retesting guidelines in Section III are also followed for ABE and GED programs.

Students without sufficient proficiency in English are referred to Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) programs. Refer to Section IV-C.

A. Placement Guide for Adult Basic Education (ABE):

The following placement scores are required for placement in the ABE programs:

ABE Placement Guide	
TABE Grade Equivalent	**Required Placement**
Reading	
4.0 – 4.9	n/a
5.0 – 5.9	n/a
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 094
Language	
4.0 – 4.9	n/a
5.0 – 5.9	EDU 083
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 084
Math	
4.0 – 4.9	EDU 073
5.0 – 5.9	EDU 073
6.0 – 8.9	EDU 074

Students whose TABE scores are below the minimum required levels are referred to other adult basic education programs or to other remediation programs offered by M-DCC. Information about these options will be provided to the student during the placement interview.

B. Placement Guide for General Education Development (GED) Preparatory Courses:

GED students should obtain a minimum 9.0 grade level equivalent on the TABE for each subject area in order to gain the most benefit from the GED preparatory courses. If a student scores a 9.0 grade equivalent or higher in reading and less than 9.0 in mathematics and/or language, the student can be enrolled in both GED and Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs of study.

Students are registered in EDU 075 – GED Preparatory – Comprehensive (LCP A-E) if they lack a State of Florida recognized high school diploma and meet one of the following criteria:

1. Have never taken the GED test.
2. Have taken the GED test, but have not passed any of the subtests.
3. Passed all of the subtests of the GED test without obtaining an overall passing score of 225.

A student who has taken the GED test and failed at least one, but not all of the subtests, is enrolled in one or more of the following courses:

GED Prep Courses Placement Guide	
EDU 085 GED Preparatory – Language/Writing	LCP - A
EDU 078 GED Preparatory – Social Studies	LCP - B
EDU 079 GED Preparatory – Science	LCP - C
EDU 095 GED Preparatory – Literature/Reading	LCP - D
EDU 077 GED Preparatory – Mathematics	LCP - E

LCP = Literacy Completion Point

C. <u>Placement Guide for Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL):</u>

M-DCC administers the TABE Survey (Reading and Language only) Forms 7 and 8 with Locator to place students into the appropriate course for their literacy level. Students will be placed based on the average of their reading and language scores on the TABE test as follows:

VESOL Placement Guide	
TABE Grade Equivalent	Course Placement Level
2.0 – 2.9	**EDU 068 – VESOL A (Beginning)**
3.0 – 5.9	**EDU 069 – VESOL B (Intermediate)**
6.0 – 8.9	**EDU 070 – VESOL C (Advanced)**

Eligible students who do not meet the placement criteria listed above for the VESOL program will be referred to other programs offered by the College (REVEST, non-credit intensive English, credit program, etc.) or to programs offered by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Students transitioning from VESOL C to Vocational Credit Certificate programs are retested on the TABE following the testing guidelines in Section III in order to determine program eligibility and placement.

Research and Testing Committee
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